

short time since also, among a number of pieces of amber (not copal), he found some containing insects, in which distinct spiders' webs could be seen (thus fossil spiders' webs!!); in some, the webs and also the insects hanging in them were evident.—*Leonhard and Bronn's Jahrbuch für Geologie.*

COUNTY OF DOWN FOSSIL INFUSORIA.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Belfast, August 9, 1845.

GENTLEMEN,—As Dr. Mantell, in a communication published in the last Number of the 'Annals,' p. 86, briefly notices some *Fossil Infusoria* from the county of Down, without any allusion to their having been previously described, it is perhaps desirable for the information of persons interested in the subject to state, that a paper on the subject of these same Infusoria, accompanied by some figures, appeared in 1839 in Charlesworth's 'Magazine of Natural History,' vol. iii.

WM. THOMPSON.

CAPTURE OF ACIPENSER HUSO.

Cork, July 31, 1845.

A fine specimen of the Isinglass Sturgeon (*Acipenser Huso*), 8 feet 4 inches long, and weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., was taken within a mile of this city on Tuesday July 1st.

I examined it carefully, and compared it with the plate of *A. Huso* in Shaw's 'Zoology,' with which it exactly agreed.

As this is, I believe, the first instance of that fish having been captured on the coast of this county, or, as far as I am aware, on any part of the coast of Ireland, I feel a pleasure in sending information on the subject to the 'Annals of Natural History.' The common sturgeon (*A. Sturio*) has been taken more than once in the river Lee, near Cork.

JOHN HUMPHREYS, *Librarian R. C. Institution.*

ON THE CYSTIDÆ. BY VON BUCH.

In a letter to Prof. Bronn, M. Buch states that his monograph of the *Cystidæ* is now printing. Troschel's drawings to it are very beautiful, and he hopes that the copper-plates will turn out well. A lucky incident has rendered this work more perfect than he had anticipated. The *Echino-encrinus* (a barbarous term, and one founded upon an entirely erroneous analogy!), described by Meyer and Schlotheim,—this extinct form has been collected and brought here in several pieces, by the industry of M. Krantz. Hence he had an opportunity of studying all its peculiarities, its affinity, the points in which it differs from other *Cystidæ*, and the laws of its development. He clearly saw that M. Vollborth in his first paper (Bullet. de Pétersb. 10. no. 19. pl. 1 and 2) had figured it well and accurately, with a commentary which did not seek for laws but curiosities! In Bullet. 1844, 3. 2 b, he imagines that this form possesses two rows